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The German Tribune

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Wretched financial system discussed in Washington

Representatives of 118 countries from the non-Communist world convened in the Washington Sheraton Park Hotel to discuss for a week the wretched condition of the international monetary system.

The old system is dead, many advocates of reform crowd, but the cry "Long live the new system" did not follow. Only the vague outlines of the new system are apparent.

Not even optimists feel it will emerge in black and white within a year. Both politicians and monetary experts will spend years working out the details, though of course a majority of countries have indicated the direction developments can be expected to take.

Whatever happens fixed exchange rates, the basis of the old system, are to be retained, but with greater leeway in terms of both band-width and moderate devaluations.

In order to ease the strain on the United States as a reserve currency country the system is to be made more independent of the dollar and the links between the dollar and gold further severed.

Gold is to decline in significance for the international monetary system. Its place will increasingly be taken by "paper money".

The crisis began with what in retrospect would appear to have been a relatively harmless move, the floating of a number of currencies. It now amounts to a struggle for political power giving rise to anxiety lest reasonable attempts to reach an economic solution come to grief.

The political tumult was caused by the United States, which viewed the European exchange-rate moves as a further attack on the battered prestige of the dollar.

In view, moreover, of economic difficulties at home President Nixon decided to take drastic action and on 15 August announced details of a package designed to attract voters at home and bridge the balance-of-payments gap.

Above all Mr Nixon's moves bore witness in no uncertain terms to America's claim to leadership as the strongest Western power even though the United States might at present be in the throes of an economic crisis.

Many IMF delegates were unhappy in Washington about the tribute the United States demanded, but the gathering of monetary and financial specialists was fair enough to concede that American deficit spending, now made out to be a cardinal sin, used to be considered an American virtue.

Assurances of assistance from all sides in sharing the American burden and cutting back the US balance-of-payments deficit were thus more than a mere submission to reality. They represented an admission of partial responsibility for the present situation resulting from inflationary policies.

Talks on burden-sharing and realignment of exchange rates are now a joint item on the agenda. On the sidelines, as it were, the Group of Ten, consisting of the countries backing the major Western currencies, and the Finance Ministers of



New CDU chairman elected

Rainer Barzel, 47, (left), being congratulated on his election to the chairmanship of the CDU by his defeated opponent, Helmut Kohl, 41. A decisive 244 votes were cast for Barzel and 174 for Kohl. On the extreme right Ludwig Erhard, former chancellor and the man responsible for West Germany's economic miracle, looks on.

The European Common Market agreed on new deadlines and agendas.

Discussions are to continue, all concerned realising that prolongation of the present state of affairs represents not only a possible end to free convertibility and the introduction of exchange controls but also a risk of contraction of world trade.

US Treasury Secretary John Connally outlined tough and tricky proposals on the penultimate day of the conference. America's import surcharge, which could lead to protectionism and controls all over the world, might, he said, be subject to negotiation if other countries showed willingness to cut back on trade restrictions that have long been a thorn in America's side.

This hint was directed primarily at Japan and the Common Market. These

free trade moves were to be accompanied by a temporary floating of all currencies.

There can be no doubt that worldwide currency floating would lead to revaluation in both Europe and Japan that might "for a while" as Karl Schiller of this country put it in his final press conference appear tolerable but would in the long run be unacceptable.

This being the case the Americans might, though this is virtually sheer speculation, be prepared to consider devaluing the dollar and not reject the idea out of hand.

The possibility would be a more likely proposition if progress could be achieved on burden-sharing, particularly in respect of the foreign exchange costs of stationing US troops abroad and in development aid.

Fritz Schlosspreck
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 2 October 1971)

Language row on Four-Power agreement pushed aside

to talks on the Four-Power Agreement consistent with the interpretation made in this country.

One opportunity would be an agreement on the improvement of postal traffic and offset payments to the GDR by this country's Bundespost.

Now that the GDR has consented to the Bundespost acting on West Berlin's behalf State Secretary Bahr has issued an invitation to Michael Kohl, his GDR opposite number, to resume negotiations.

The two men have agreed to start talks on civil passengers and freight traffic between the Federal Republic and the three Western sectors of Berlin. For the time being, then, the GDR's demand that West Berlin and the Federal Republic negotiate separately as laid down in the

Four-Power Agreement has been defused. As the prelude makes it appear more than likely that the inter-German negotiations will follow the same pattern as the Four-Power talks and take ages to circumnavigate the various pitfalls a number of questions remain open.

It may, for instance, well be that the question of who on the Western side is to sign the traffic agreement with the GDR when it comes to the pinch will recur.

Differing interpretations will also play a part in negotiations on other details. Herr Bahr has already noted – in a most defensive manner – that agreement on what constitutes a breach of regulations sufficient to justify spot checks by the GDR customs authorities will prove a tough nut to crack.

This is why it is worth pointing out that in the interest of the Four-Power Agreement the outcome of the German talks on travel to and from West Berlin must contain no greater impediments than follow on directly from the terms of the Allied agreement on Berlin.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 2 October 1971)

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which already exists in the form of special drawing rights (SDRs).

SDRs will only function as a reserve currency and stabilising factor in dealings between central banks, however. All money-creating plans to oust the dollar as the leading currency proved not only extremely difficult in theory but also nearly unrealistic in political terms.

The moderate reform plans agreed on cannot be said to contain really new ideas. They amount to less than proposals that have been debated for some years. At the conference had no time to deal with basic issues.

It was confronted with a crisis that was being more out of hand with each passing day. Monetary specialists, central bankers, Economic Affairs and Finance Ministers were overwhelmed by political considerations.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Britain's spy-expulsions have not dramatically undermined detente efforts

The expulsion of 105 Soviet diplomats and officials raises a number of issues in relation to Britain's policy towards the Eastern Bloc, particularly now that the Foreign Office aide-memoire to the Kremlin links KGB operations in Britain with the European security conference on which the Soviet Union is so keen.

Britain has made it unmistakably clear that it will only agree to a conference of this kind on condition that KGB activity in Britain is cut back considerably.

Since it is well known that Whitehall has so far been less enthusiastic about the idea of a security conference than other Western governments suspicions were bound to arise that Prime Minister Heath and Foreign Secretary Douglas-Home would like to prevent or at least postpone the holding of a security conference.

The juncture at which Whitehall resorted to this drastic measure might even give rise to suspicions that it represents an attempt by Whitehall to undermine Chancellor Brandt's Ostpolitik.

It was only to be expected that the Soviet Union would put this interpretation to the expulsion order and have its propaganda machine make out the order to be a reversion to cold war.

By then it was too late for the Foreign Office's attempt to make the expulsion out to be of no political significance to have any effect.

A more convincing argument mustered by the British government is that it is not Whitehall that is holding up a European drop-out whose overgrown intelligence bureaucracy casts doubt on the seriousness of his political masters' intentions.

What the Soviet government ought to be doing, Whitehall argues, is to put their secret service chief in his place. In other

Süddeutsche Zeitung

words Britain trusts that the Kremlin will not allow itself to be diverted from its political aims by an intelligence slip-up, always providing, of course, that it really considers these aims to be important.

The British government does not expect serious political consequences to ensue but is prepared for the possibility. To a certain extent, of course, it had no choice in the matter.

Whitehall had to act once the Soviet secret service learnt of the desertion of a high-ranking intelligence official and could no longer be in any doubt as to the fact that its network of agents had been blown.

Otherwise the KGB would have grown increasingly audacious and the Kremlin been increasingly contemptuous in its dismissals of protests lodged by London.

The question ex-Labour Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart is now asking is

whether this government had to stage such a spectacular show. It could have expelled the offenders in smaller groups and with far less publicity.

The effect on the Soviet Union would not have been so intense and the political consequences could have been kept to within calculable limits.

Whitehall's attitude in the debate on a security conference now depends in the further Soviet response.

It is by no means out of the question that the Brussels meeting of Nato Deputy Foreign Ministers will adopt a more wait-and-see attitude in debating the terms of references for outgoing Nato Secretary-General Manlio Brosio of Italy who is to go on a fact-finding tour of the Eastern Bloc to probe the prospects of a mutual balanced force reduction.

Is this, on the side, another of Whitehall's targets?

There are a number of indications that Britain might be interested in postponing the security conference as long as possible - until, say, such time as it is a member of the EEC and its arguments carry

greater weight as being those of a prominent member of the Common Market.

It is interesting to note how unimportant Whitehall in the past Premier Heath EEC negotiator attaches to an intensification of European defence efforts.

Britain is evidently interested in this issue and that of American reductions in Europe before the takes its place at the security conference. The American Presidential election next autumn are another important factor to note.

Security conference reservations

These reservations about a security conference need not necessarily be serious repercussions on Bonn's Ostpolitik, particularly as ideas about conference are still extremely vague both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Whitehall certainly has no intention of interfering with Chancellor Brandt's attempt to establish a modus vivendi between the two German states. It did its negotiating the Four-Power agreement in Berlin.

Mr Heath is neither willing nor able to undermine the detente endeavours of Nixon, Pompidou and Brandt "at a sloop," to use one of his favourite phrases.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 September 1971)

Moscow and Peking and the European Economic Community

European capitals are already forcing them to make further moves.

Neither is prepared to allow the other to gain the advantage. Should the Common Market one day prove a suitable treaty partner for either Moscow or Peking each would prefer to reap the Western European harvest itself and would certainly begrudge it the other.

Diplomatic contacts have proved that when the need arises both Moscow and Peking are prepared to break the taboo of ignoring the Common Market as a trade factor overnight.

It almost looks as though the Soviet Union were in the process of stepping up its reappraisal of Western European integration. There are even a number of signs that Moscow is planning in the long term to attach considerable importance to the EEC.

Were the first phase of this strategy to succeed and a European security conference to be established as a permanent fixture there would be time and place enough for the second stage of cooperation between alliances in East and West and synchronisation between the EEC and Comecon.

As the danger and prospects inherent in these Soviet designs are self-evident Western European planners have not been inactive. The Soviet interest in the EEC is the major item on the agenda of the Western European summit proposed by M. Pompidou and Mr. Heath.

Peking would seem, as far as the Common Market is concerned, to be less committed, less the prisoner of its own unconsidered propaganda yet at the same time less tenacious.

Peking has yet to grasp a fact that Moscow has long appreciated. From 1973 Common Market members will be unable to conclude trade agreements with other countries independently and from 1975 on they will even be unable to implement them single-handedly.

From this date on the Community will represent Common Market countries'

DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

trade interest with others, not the individual countries themselves.

From the mid-seventies anyone wishing to conclude a trade agreement with Communist Market countries will have to apply to the Common Market Council in Brussels.

The Russians and the Chinese may find it more difficult to come to terms with this state of affairs politically than they would economically.

Since they are both economically unable to make even the most minimal forward without Western and European assistance (except, that is, in the case of the Soviet Union's own effort) it is clear that sooner or later bound to happen.

Hunger for goods in general and need for technological imports in particular are both working in this Communist Market's favour.

(Deutsche Zeitung, 1 October 1971)

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HOME AFFAIRS

SPD and FDP are tackling domestic reforms in too timid a manner

Foreign policy makes a mark. Once again a German Chancellor is free-wheeling within the unlimited scope of a badly conceived foreign policy strategy, making one almost forget the trials and tribulations of home affairs.

It is no understatement of the friction and risk of failure of a major foreign policy operation to note that a hard core of Cabinet policy of old remains at the disposal of diplomacy and that the statesman who starts the ball rolling continues to hold most of the trumps.

In the domestic affairs of a pluralistic democracy there cannot be the same degree of secrecy, discretion and sovereign timing or elimination of politically relevant factors that may create difficulties.

The leader of the Opposition is kept informed to a certain degree as to the progress of diplomatic moves but since it is a matter of foreign policy he is bound by a measure of loyalty to raison d'état. When, for that matter, has a Chancellor "in action" cared two hoots for the speculative scribbles of the Press? Leaks may be a nuisance but they can also be an integral part of policy.

Foreign policymakers deal with secretaries, chancelleries and poker-faced opposite numbers, a point particularly apparent in Willy Brandt's present dealings with the Eastern Bloc.

And Egon Bahr, the Chancellor's faithful right-hand man, is taking good care to ensure that any disturbance of these confidential negotiations is largely precluded prior to their conclusion.

The Chancellor is, however, all the more dependent on a successful conclusion being reached. Democracy has its drawbacks in that a statesman who is responsible to his parliament is, in the final analysis, the prisoner of his own moves.

This is an unmistakable weakness in dealing with opposite numbers who need

Awkward Opposition questions in the Bundestag

The Opposition has called on the government to say what reforms it intends to carry out in the life of the current parliament and will be able to finance.

The idea is to force the government to admit that it took on more than it could chew last autumn with a working programme consisting of more than 400 points.

The Opposition's questions are awkward but justified. The government itself had put off the Opposition and public opinion until the autumn.

Now that Cabinet decisions have been taken on financial planning there is no reason for giving evasive replies and not admitting the main emphasis of government plans.

The government would be doing itself the gravest disservice again to try and put off the Opposition and public opinion. Reform policies would still be

financial plans will in any case make it clear what can and cannot be achieved. Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Karl Schiller would do well to indulge in some plain budgetary speaking and not limit himself to growth-rate statistical acrobatics. (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 September 1971)

PUBLIK

fear neither public opinion nor the response of elected representatives.

But then Mr Brezhnev is also vulnerable within the politbureau and central committee of his Bolshevik party and in his way equally dependant on success, as has recently been brought to mind by the fate of Nikita Khrushchev.

Practical politics in the enormous domestic sector, which is virtually impossible to survey at one fell swoop, is another matter altogether.

Not that there is less scope for imaginative politics. Quite the reverse. Month by month new major tasks grow like hydra's heads that can only be dealt with by dint of energetic action.

The statesman in a pluralistic system has a vast number of daily decisions to make. Economic and financial considerations, function as a more vicious brake on domestic policy action than competition with another country ever will.

Dependence on these various considerations is there for all to see on the political stage, not covered by the provisions of, say, the Official Secrets Act. A budget can be manipulated by its effects cannot be warded off or intensified.

If foreign policy moves come to naught they can always be called to a halt in good time and with a shrug of the shoulders.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 September 1971)

Opposition steps up pressure for government to act on domestic reform programme

what they have so far achieved that they are none too keen on taking a fresh run-up at anything in particular.

Much-maligned Housing Minister Lauritz Lauritzen, for instance, has succeeded in passing through parliament the controversial Town Planning Promotion Act, which has now come into force, and now that this toughest nut has been cracked he can sit back and ply the Bundestag with allied legislation, as it were.

Lauritzen's case is a prize example of how difficult domestic policy can be when the machinery of legislation goes at too fast a pace.

Both coalition parties had to accept and carry out what they had agreed on in

their policy statement, but as soon as a government department starts to go beyond this part of the agenda the coalition partner starts to become distrustful and atoning legislation.

Like Hans Lauritzen Interior Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher can numerically be satisfied with his Ministry's accounts, as it were. His four major environmental Bills have either been passed, submitted to parliament or approved by the Cabinet.

As regards their substance, however, specialists are agreed that the compromises reached are such that the legislation will just about enable the Ministry to prevent the pollution situation from becoming more intolerable than it already is and no more.

Among the other major Ministries Ger-

Have they already shot their bolt, is the FDP hindering the SPD or is this a foretaste of the election campaign to gain the support of the middle class, which is wavering between SPD, FDP and Christian Democrats?

Public opinion is well ahead of government activity. Even idiots and ignoramus now realise that schools, kindergartens, universities, roads, Undergrounds, hospitals, purification plant and garbage incinerators, all of which are loudly demanded all over the country, cost a great deal of money.

Reform is no longer mainly a matter of redistribution between the rich and the poor, of welfare. It is a matter of redistribution from private consumption to public services - structural policy for all.

A gigantic task of this kind calls for changes in public awareness and a realignment of priorities.

It is growing increasingly apparent that domestic modernisation of the social system must necessarily follow on from the cementation of the status quo in Europe and definitive relaxation of tension that will mark the end of the second stage in this country's post-war foreign policy.

Young people, although seemingly quieter and more indifferent these days (though who can tell?), are growing impatient and not prepared to wait half a generation for what has already been realised and worked out in theory.

They have a right to expect that evident dangers and misdevelopments once recognised as such be determinedly dealt with.

For us Central Europeans on the borderline between two worlds foreign policy may continue to be our destiny but domestic policy represents the life we live.

Emil Obermann (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 24 September 1971)

Yugoslavia rehabilitated into Moscow's circle of friends

Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger

Pravda was lavish in its choice of words to describe General Secretary Brezhnev's visit to Belgrade. It talked in terms of fraternal feelings between the peoples of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

There was the significant traditional formula of warm fraternal greetings conveyed to the Yugoslavs by Mr Brezhnev in the name of Soviet workers.

In the opinion of Soviet observers the ideological importance of the visit, which is considered to have been a great success, is almost on a par with the foreign policy consequences.

In addition to a fairly uniform view of major international problems the foreign policy consequence is, Moscow feels, in the main that Peking will not be able to establish a foothold in the Balkans - certainly not with Yugoslav support.

Had this not been the case, political observers in Moscow feel, the visit would have been a far less cordial affair and there would have been no question of extending an invitation to President Tito to pay the Soviet Union a return visit.

The ideological passages in the joint declaration are not to be underestimated either, Moscow feels. They contrast sharply with the gloomy forecasts about the Yugoslav way to socialism privately made in the Soviet capital until recently.

Leonid Brezhnev's renewal of Nikita Khrushchev's 1955 guarantee of Yugoslavia's independence and independent development has not come as much of a surprise. Nor has the Soviet leader's denial of the existence of a so-called Brezhnev Doctrine.

Yet only a matter of weeks ago it was noted in the Soviet capital that the Party leader had no intention of making concessions to Belgrade.

With a few qualifications, moreover, Yugoslavia was rehabilitated as a full member of the socialist world system and Pravda talked in terms of the joint class stand of the two countries, which necessarily involves a positive assessment of President Tito's domestic and foreign policy.

Soviet sources are less responsive to suggestions that a logical consequence of this move would be to allow all socialist countries to pursue a policy of independent development without running the risk of being declared traitors to the cause of socialism by the Soviet Union.

Part of the solution to the riddle is that Moscow reckons Tito is a little less confident about the benefit of going it alone.

This, at any rate, is the interpretation made in Moscow of recent speeches by the Yugoslav leader in which he has reiterated the need for class struggle and spoken out against bourgeois elements.

Uwe Engelbrecht (Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 28 September 1971)



Rudolf Augstein

NEWS MEDIA

Augstein puts the brakes on Spiegel's left-wing

if the report was true Gaus no longer stuck to the denial.

Augstein and Gaus had previously met Böhma to smooth over his poor relationships with von Hoffmann and editor-in-chief Gaus admitted that his first denial had been a lie told because of his "perplexed helplessness".

Gestures of solidarity now began to snowball. The same night the second D I man asked to be relieved of his duties. Another threatened that he would in no even resign while he was still a member of the editorial council while yet another, who had nothing to do with department D I, came along to protest. During that same night Gaus considered whether he should leave.

But the editor-in-chief remained and publisher Augstein threatened to change his plans for staff participation in decision-making under which the staff would have had a fifty-per-cent say from 1973 onwards if the editorial council rejected decisions on personnel taken by management and the editors-in-chief.

Augstein even spoke of amputation, meaning that he would split with the left-wingers if need be. Gaus argued that it was best to get rid of the person that could be replaced more easily, adding that the head of the Bonn branch could not be sacked two and a half years before the next elections. It was Gaus who dismissed Böhma's predecessor Goyka from the post in 1969, the last election year.

But the editorial council disapproved of Alexander von Hoffmann's dismissal from his post as head of the Deutschland I department. Collages said that he was once a truly liberal conservative.

Augstein, his editors-in-chief and editors then agreed to delay the final decision until 30 September when the von Hoffmann case would be re-opened again.

The purpose of the agreement was to catch up on negotiations that had not yet been conducted, allowing Böhma and von Hoffmann to find some way of solving their differences with Gaus' help. The two

protagonists also agreed and von Hoffmann's dismissal was withdrawn.

Some observers claim that this was not the case de facto and that editor-in-chief Gaus had indicated he had wanted to uphold the original decision in which his influence had told.

They further claim that Gaus had taken sides against the Deutschland I department with remarks that the description "left-wing liars" was more tenable than "reactionary". Gaus' friend Böhma and other members of the Bonn staff had indicated no readiness for compromise, they add.

In the end, most of the editorial council no longer saw any possibility of effecting an agreement between D I and the Bonn branch. The conflict had become a conflict over house policy and had meanwhile assumed the character of a clash between ideologically-motivated group interests.

A minority on the editorial council continued to hold out against staff changes but it is hard to say how much the "left wing" is concerned with participation in decision-making or with getting their ideological line accepted.

Publisher Augstein did not tarry long. On 20 September he and his editor-in-chief confirmed von Hoffmann's dismissal and stated that they would have no share in what they described as the suicidal activities of the editorial council. Augstein had already described two memoranda from this body as harmful to the concern.

Staff questions would now only be dealt with by the management and editors-in-chief, they added, the editors did not after all form a parliament, the editorial council was not a committee of the full assembly and the statutes of this body only led to anarchy.

The explosion had occurred. The only thing the full assembly could do was to disapprove of the form of the decision of the editors-in-chief by a two-thirds majority.

Rudolf Augstein had put forward his plans for participation in decision-making



Günter Gaus

at a time when calls for editorial staff could not be overheard.

The two sides agreed in a statute which the editorial council would present the interests of the editors-in-chief being bound to the decisions of the editorial assembly.

But Rudolf Augstein has now changed his mind. As representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, Bonn said that of the 1,383 demonstrations a total of 122 led to breaches of the peace.

This means that only one demonstration in every eleven ended in trouble in 1970. One in four demonstrations ended in violence in 1968 and one in three in 1969.

Observers now believe that Augstein's plan was only meant to guard against worse evils. They wonder whether he has to sever himself from the left-wings against him in a few years time.

Frankfurter Rundschau, 27 September 1971

the end of September 1951 the Federal Constitutional Court was set up in Karlsruhe. In the twenty years of its existence it has become a Walling Wall for citizens of this country, the last for condemned men, a complaints for taxpayers, a defender of rights, a battle field for the states against the central government, a protector of Basic Law and a dog of democracy.

Powers far exceed those of courts of justice in other democracies. It can even challenge a final decision made by the Bundestag as representative of the people.

President Theodor Heuss and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer were present at the opening of the Federal Constitutional Court on 28 September 1951 in its scantily equipped quarters assigned to it by Minister of Justice Thomas

the judges had already met before the official session. Even before they took their red robes of office, they had on 1 September 1951 made their controversial judgment on the establishment of a federal state consisting of both Baden and Württemberg.

Then people raised the question of whether political struggles could be

Fewer violent demonstrations

The number of violent demonstrations in the Federal Republic declined last year. The Ministry of the Interior, Bonn said that of the 1,383 demonstrations a total of 122 led to breaches of the peace.

This means that only one demonstration in every eleven ended in trouble in 1970. One in four demonstrations ended in violence in 1968 and one in three in 1969.

Frankfurter Rundschau, 27 September 1971

Committee discusses plan to fine polluters

The Cabinet Committee for Environmental Questions met on 22 September to discuss a conservation programme set forward by Minister of the Interior Hans-Dietrich Genscher and based on a list of immediate measures drawn up some time ago.

The committee consists of all the Ministers in Bonn apart from those of Development Aid, Inter-German Relations and Justice. This shows how complex the subject is considered.

The draft conservation programme envisaged programmes costing of 28,000 million Marks up to 1975. This money would be raised by the central government, Federal states, local authorities and industry.

Industry would contribute 15,300 million Marks and the central government would pay 3,600 millions of the remaining amount. Medium-term financial planning involving 1,400 millions is not much.

From what has leaked out, it is expected that the environmental programme will pay great attention to the sources of pollution. The cost of any conservation measures will be borne by those who caused the damage in question.

It is also intended to create a council of environmental specialists along the lines of the Specialist Council for Overall Economic Development.

A specialist council for environmental questions would consist of experts and representatives of various groups, which would have to satisfy stricter

GOVERNMENT

Constitutional Court celebrates twenty years of existence

decided by a legal ruling. In his opening address Hermann Höpker-Aschoff, the Court's first head, stated, "it is not the task of the Federal Constitutional Court to take decisions about political conflicts but merely to ensure that the participants of these struggles respect the norms of Basic Law that are binding on everybody and guarantee order."

Twenty years later Professor Gerhard Leibholz, one of the Court's judges and on the point of retiring, writes in a recently-published book, "It cannot be disputed that the issues subject to the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court touch upon political issues and that the decisions of the Court could have extraordinary far-reaching political consequences and alter decisively the play of political forces."

Gebhard Müller, the head of the Constitutional Court until 13 October this year, also takes stock in the same book.

"After twenty years," he writes, "it can be stated that the establishment of the Court has made an essential contribution to the stabilisation of the life of the State and that the comprehensive constitutional controls have not led to an intolerable spread of politics into the administration of justice as opponents of the Constitutional Court feared."

Since 1951 a total of 22,000 complaints have been received by the Karlsruhe-based Court. The help promised to citizens in Basic Law takes up half the time of the two chambers.

Though relatively few complaints are successful, important rulings have been made at times. In 1953 it was decided

that men and women were equal and were to be treated as such. This resulted in a number of changes in laws concerning marriage and family matters.

In 1956 the Federal Constitutional Court stated that the Communist Party was unconstitutional and banned it.

In 1961 the Court stated that the foundation of a "German Television Company" by the central government and Chancellor Adenauer was null and void as it was incompatible with Basic Law.

The Court caused a sensation in 1966 when it rejected a complaint by the Spiegel publishing company, thus providing the final verdict on the Spiegel affair of October 1962.

The Constitutional Court has been praised and reviled in the past twenty years. Its decisions often cause displeasure in Bonn. When the judges thwarted the government's plans for a television network Chancellor Adenauer stated, "The Cabinet is agreed that the Constitutional Court's judgment is wrong."

Politicians of all shades of opinion were indignant when the Court banned the financing of parties from public funds. The men-on-the-street's anger was raised when the Court approved a phone-tapping law.

Changes will be made in the composition of the Court towards the end of the year. Apart from Gebhard Müller, five other judges are leaving because their term of office has elapsed or they have reached the retiring age.

Wiltraut Rupp von Brünneck and Rudi Wandt can be re-elected but for months now politicians in Bonn have been wrestling over the issue of who to appoint to the four vacant posts.

The most likely candidate for the position of president is Karl Castens, a former State Secretary in the Chancellor's Office and a Christian Democrat. Another Christian Democrat, Ernst Bende, a former Minister of the Interior, is also in the running.

The CDU will not decide who should be sent to Karlsruhe until after the party congress this October. The SPD has already made up its mind and nominated Martin Hirsch, the deputy chairman of the parliamentary party, as a judge in the Constitutional Court's Second Chamber. In three and a half years time Hirsch would then succeed Walter Seuffert as the Court's Vice-President.

Walter Schallies

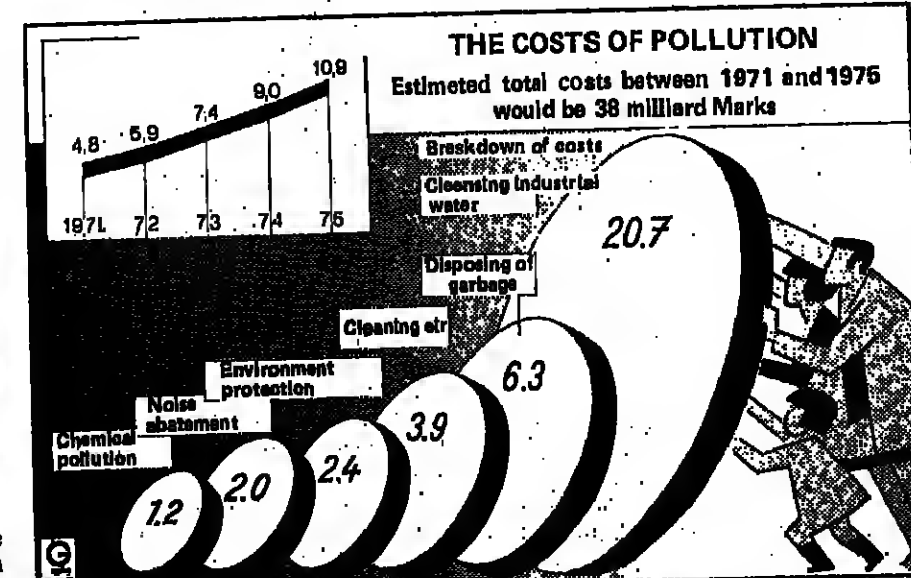
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 September 1971)

Humanist Union's 10th anniversary

Ten years ago on 28 September 1961 the Humanist Union was registered with the registrar of companies. The writer and journalist Gerhard Szczesny had sponsored its foundation.

The Humanist Union, a body particularly concerned with taking religion from the schools, stated in its manifesto: "It is the task of the Humanist Union to ensure the preservation or restoration of our basic rights, defend the communal values and amenities of our State, advocate a system of education and research that is free and divorced from all ideology, and do everything suited to leading to the revelation and recognition of the religious, philosophical, ideological, artistic and existential trends in our society."

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 September 1971)



Estimates are being prepared in Bonn as to how costly anti-pollution proposals would be. It has been calculated that between 1971 and 1975 as much as 38 milliard Marks would be needed in all to cover present proposals, 4.8 milliard Marks in 1971 rising to almost 11 milliard in 1975. Fifty per cent would be provided by state governments. The remainder by industrial organisations.

view and would not be attached to any ministry but would enjoy a considerable degree of independence.

The Specialist Council would have to submit a report on the current situation at various intervals of time and propose what measures should be taken.

So far there is no environmental statistics law but this should be remedied by next spring. This law would oblige the government to compile comprehensive statistics on matters such as water and air pollution based on standardised criteria, which has not been the case up to now.

Meaning that it was hard to compare data.

Despite its rather non-controversial

sounding title, it will be hard to push the law through the Bundestag because of the expenditure it involved.

The various penal clauses now contained in a number of laws including some new ones such as the Immission Act should be covered by special laws, at least as far as glaring examples of violations against regulations for the conservation of the environment are concerned.

Action of this nature would tend to make people see what is illegal. A sixteen-man team that has already submitted proposals for penal reform is now to draw up a draft law covering pollution offences of this type.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 24 September 1971)

Social Democrats show sudden interest in television

suspecting that these three men with similar political views wanted to come to some agreement on staffing policy.

The sharp reaction of the SPD, which thinks, presumably justifiably, that it was outmanoeuvred on this occasion, is less an answer to this preparatory meeting as part of a general movement to finding a more consistent policy towards the mass media.

Oswald's action indicates that the demand made on the Prime Ministers of the Federal states by Joekel Fuchs, a Social Democrat and deputy chairman of the television council, was no flash in the pan.

Fuchs demanded that the ZDF's contract should be withdrawn. The Social Democrats, and basically the Free Democrats too, are obviously no longer prepared to tolerate for ever what Fuchs called the one-sided, political majority formations on the ZDF's controlling boards.

Seen in this light, an escalation in the conflict surrounding the issue cannot be welcome to the CDU/CSU especially as this is the tenth year in the existence of

the ZDF and discontented Prime Ministers now have their first chance of scrapping the agreement.

The administrative council is tied to compromise and cooperation if it is to become a force or a permanent body.

But practically no more than lip-service would be paid to this necessary operation if the administrative council, a controlling body with a high degree of decision-making responsibility in the personnel sphere, were to degenerate into a board where motions were passed by a party political majority.

The SPD must have understood the situation. Oswald's drastic action was supported by party colleagues in Bonn who had long been in a state of ferment as far as the mass media were concerned.

The Social Democrats can also count on the support of the Free Democrats who in recent months have been repeatedly about the alarming tendency for the ZDF to become a Christian-Democrat controlled "CDF".

The final crunch has only been delayed. The question of party political power in the independent programme commission and the situation changes as far as conservation is once again considered an organisational matter. The mass media in the service of the public.

Hans-Joachim Noack
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 September 1971)

For months there has been an uneasy atmosphere at Spiegel headquarters. The clash between left-wingers and moderate liberals has risen in intensity with the clash between Alexander von Hoffmann, the head of Deutschland I, one of the home news departments, and Erich Böhma, the head of the Bonn branch.

Publisher Rudolf Augstein and editor-in-chief Günter Gaus have now dismissed Alexander von Hoffmann.

Hans Detlev Becker, director of the Spiegel publishing house, refused to comment. "I do not intend to answer your questions," he said, adding, "Herr Augstein too will say nothing."

The state of affairs that the two supporting pillars of this publishing organisation wanted to conceal from public gaze and attention had burst out into the open at a meeting of the Spiegel editorial staff on the evening of 20 September.

The rift deepened between the editors on the one hand and the editors-in-chief and Augstein on the other and at the same time the right-wing staff were split from the left wing.

The climax and, for the time being, the final word in the debate about the editorial staff's right to participate in decision-making came when the seven-man editorial council resigned that afternoon after Augstein had that morning taken back his promise to consult the council before making staff changes.

The editorial council, elected by the full assembly, consisted of four moderate liberals and three left-wing representatives.

Augstein's displeasure with his left wing increased as the clash between Alexander von Hoffmann and Erich Böhma grew fiercer.

Böhma accused the six-men Deutschland I news department, headed by Hoffmann and responsible for covering Bonn policy, of describing Böhma's thirteen-man team in Bonn as reactionary.

The Bonn group hit back by calling the Hamburg department left-wing liars, which did not do much towards creating the atmosphere of cooperation and co-ordination that a magazine like Spiegel needs.

The quarrel rose storey by storey up the Spiegel skyscraper in Hamburg until editor-in-chief Gaus found it necessary to talk to von Hoffmann and his friend Böhma with whom he had once worked on the former Deutsche Zeitung.

But the most striking result of these interviews was the rumour that von Hoffmann was to leave his post as head of Department D I and take up another job within the concern.

Gaus at first denied the rumour but when Hoffmann asked a second time in the early hours of the morning of 12 June

CINEMA

Independent film-producers set up central bureau to aid distribution

A new chapter will soon begin in the history of independent film production in the Federal Republic. Up to now a director, on finishing a film, has had to look frantically for a distributor or, failing this, has been forced to sell his film to a television company or himself rent it to cinemas.

Television usually pays less than the film costs and the profits made from renting the film privately to cinemas only allow one or two copies to be made.

Even those directors who find a distributor are in no better a position. Unless the film immediately becomes a box-office success, the firm does not bother much about it as the Film Promotion Law only takes notice of rapid success.

The paradox in film promotion in the Federal Republic up to now has been that film production was subsidised by the Ministry of the Interior, the Modern Film Board or television companies and that most of the films thus produced were consigned to the archives.

The Modern Film Board, a body to which the Federal states contribute 750,000 Marks a year, has now decided not only to back film production but also to pay for the distribution of films that have already been shot.

Seven directors or teams are each receiving 60,000 Marks for the distribution of one of their films: Reiner Werner Fassbinder for *Götter der Pest*, Roland Gall for *Wie ich ein Neger wurde*, Alexander Kluge for *Der grosse Verhaui*, Horst Bienek for *Die Zelle*, Uwa Bradner for *Ich liebe dich, ich töte dich*, Edgar Reitz and Uta Scholz for *Der Mann vom Kübelkind* and Theodor Kotulla for *Blitz zum Happy-End*.

Two programmes of short films have been backed to the extent of 30,000 Marks each and three directors are each receiving 9,000 Marks for copies.

Eleven cinemas that have shown independently produced films are being supported financially with amounts varying from 10,000 to 50,000 Marks.

These include the *Arsenal* in Berlin, the *Abaton* in Hamburg, the *Art* in Munich, Bremen's *Ostertor Cinema*, Duisburg's



Filmforum and the *Kommunale Kino* in Frankfurt that is about to open its doors.

But one fact is more important than these specific measures — the directors have made an agreement with the Modern Film Board to place half their subsidy, that is 30,000 Marks, in a communal fund and form a central coordinating bureau at the disposal of all films and not just the seven selected. The bureau will probably be set up in Munich.

Is this to be a distribution service for modern films? Plans are a little more modest than this at the time being but they are far-reaching compared with what distributors normally do for cinemas and the film industry.

The bureau is to publish a catalogue containing all films distributed by the director or producer as well as films produced by cooperative teams.

This catalogue must differ from the normal distribution brochures and contain comprehensive and accurate information on every film without providing any advertising that could be thought of as dishonest by potential customers even if it was not.

This will not be easy as not everything that is produced independently can be recommended. The compilers of the

catalogue are not to be envied in their aim of not wanting to censor undeserving producers.

The catalogues must offer old films as well as the latest products. Usually the film industry only resurrects old films when they are box-office draws that will make a quick and easy profit or when one of the actors starring in them die.

The bureau will have to cooperate with the distributors so as to gain access to the many good old films that are presently decaying in the archives.

Directors and the cinema-going public of the Federal Republic will only reach a new understanding of what the film can and should be if consideration is paid both to film history and the most important films of the present age.

The second important function of the bureau is to draw up a list of all cinemas likely to show these films. This survey must for example show the position and catchment area of a cinema, the composition of its regular audience and the composition of the local population, its potential audience.

By means of this list an individual director will be able to decide whether there is any sense in offering his film to a cinema, even for a matter of only one day or one week.

But the intelligence of audiences must not be underestimated as is now commonly the case. And resounding successes must not be expected from the word go.

The central bureau will not at first act as a distributor but will only help forge contacts between the cinemas and producers. Distribution will remain in the hands of the producers.

But the suspicion (or hope) in the film branch that the bureau will develop into a distribution service for independently-produced films in future is probably justified.

The suspicion arises from the fear felt by the conventional film industry for the newly growing competition. The hope comes from the belief that they may be relieved from their tedious duty of screening a good though difficult West German film in their cinemas from time to time to show that they do care about culture.

The term "conventional film industry" includes most distributors, the large city-centre cinemas and the cinema chains. Smaller cinemas and those lying on the periphery of the large cities have already announced their interest in the films to be offered by the bureau.

The subsidised cinemas now planned or already springing up in a number of

places will also be important allies of the central bureau whether they are tiny clubs in rural areas or the audience communication centres in the city.

A new chapter in the history of independently produced film in the Federal Republic? I think this is so, on conditions.

Firstly, matters must not be allowed to end when the money has been paid. Work must continue. Nobody can expect a public exposed in the last few years to Stuttgart's Württembergisches Staatspomographic films and cheap commercial to accept immediately works by Fassbinder, Straub, Nestler, Kluge, Schlöndorff, Hauff, Schroeter, Behn, Nekes, Dore O. Farocki, Blier and others. Those organisers and patrons who do not exhibit the necessary patience should get out of the house before things start moving.

Secondly, once the central bureau has established contact between the filmmakers and the cinema-going public, films will have to change.

They must not try to satisfy the public taste, whatever that is, but must have to take seriously the discernible wishes of various groups.

They could not do this in the past when the film industry had more or less then and their directors from the public. It is however surprising how many of importance and how many communicative films arose despite isolation.

But if there is to be a true film culture in the Federal Republic the public must learn from the directors and directors from the public.

Wilhelm Röß (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 23 September 1971)

THEATRE

Peter Weiss's latest play *Hölderlin* opens in Stuttgart

Peter Weiss' *Hölderlin*, premiered in Stuttgart's Württembergisches Staatstheater on 19 September, contains a dramatic conflict that is old yet ever present.

On the one side there is the poet who undergoes revolution as a means to change the world. On the other side is society opposing any such upheaval.

On the one side there is the truth of the world penned by a feather quill or tapped out on a typewriter. On the other side there is the reality of political life which can only change after a long and uncertain process, if then, while acts of violence promise quicker and greater success.

What can the poet do in this position? He can hope for future effect: "We live in an age where everything is heading towards better days. The germ of Enlightenment, the silent wishes and efforts of individuals to educate Mankind will spread and increase and bear magnificent fruit. See, dear Karl, this is what my heart hungs on. This is the sacred aim of my work and activity — that I plant in our heads the seeds that will ripen in the future."

Otherwise, he can declare his solidarity with political practitioners of similar ideology.

Wilhelm Röß (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 23 September 1971)

Hans Weigel
Lern dieses Volk
Hirten kennen



DER TAGESSPIEGEL

"Like you, Herr Giroux, I am convinced that the greatest quality of art lies in its ability to influence reality and change it and that my art serves no end if it is not linked with the forces that are fighting today for far-reaching changes in social conditions."

The first quotation comes from a letter written by Friedrich Hölderlin to his brother Karl Gok in 1793, the second taken from a letter written by Peter Weiss to East German politician Wilhelm Grottel in 1965.

Peter Weiss' *Hölderlin*, a figure of the theatre and yet no product of the imagination, states:

Wie ich beschreiben und aufleben will
nicht die ungeliebten Forderungen
auf Umbruch der Gesellschaft
sich Gehör erzwingen.

(Nothing can be modest or content until the mighty demands for a change in society gain a hearing.)

Peter Weiss' play consists of two acts each with four scenes and prologue and epilogue and is already considered to be the most important new German-language drama this season. Even before Peter Weiss' Stuttgart production fifteen other theatres had decided to stage it later in the year.

The audience at the premiere honoured the high estimation in which *Hölderlin* is held by theatre directors by providing loud and lengthy applause both for the production and the playwright himself.

The success was deserved. Since his *Marat/Sade* drama seven years ago Peter Weiss had been unable to produce any other play so rich in poetry and imagination.

Peter Weiss' work in drawing public attention to Auschwitz, Angola and Vietnam in his documentary dramas must not be underestimated but the playwright's

subjective feeling. In the ten years of its existence the total number of books sold by dtv correspond to the total number of the literate population here. Fear of over-production need not disturb the festive mood.

Heinrich Vormweg (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 September 1971)

A scene from the Stuttgart production of *Hölderlin* (Photo: Madeline Winkler-Beitendahl)



Peter Weiss
(Photo: Archiv/Helm Kötter)

person somewhat divorced from normality. It is hard to say with certainty whether Hölderlin's madness is not perhaps an intentional flight from the world.

A young editor of the *Rheinische Zeitung* visits the poet in his asylum and grants him that the analysis of the concrete historical situation is not the only factor in preparing for far-reaching changes:

Der andere Weg ist
die visionäre Formung
tiefer persönlicher Erfahrung
(The other way is the visionary moulding of deepest personal experience)

Only when the sick man's nurse addresses the friendly young men with "Herr Marx" do we realise that Peter Weiss has departed from his otherwise painstakingly accurate faithfulness to the historical authenticity of Hölderlin's story for the sake of a liberally extended understanding of Marxism.

Like *Marat/Sade* (which admittedly is more effective because of its repeated outbreaks into theatrical paroxysms), *Hölderlin* is basically an elegy, a melancholy, but also ironic and sarcastic lamentation of a great thinking individual who is unable to act great.

As a stage work it offers a wide number of possible interpretations. The mood can be one of resignation or of aggression but it is best to have a balance of the two.

With Karl Kneidl's stage design, Peter Palitzsch's production in Stuttgart on the surface approaches the ideal — an aesthetically strict and finely stylised framework for characteristic brutal and realistic details — but is unable to detach itself from the powerful effects of irony.

The production if painstaking in its correctness, which can only be of benefit when a play is produced for the first time, but it is a little too painstaking.

The student demonstration in Tübingen remains harmless. There should be more inhibition expressed in the scene set in the home of the Kalbs where patriarchal arrogance and sexual frustration meet at close quarters. The Empedocles vision lacks the illuminating power and simplicity necessary to show the perspective ranging from the fabulous past to the immediate present.

But Palitzsch does give an excellently reserved treatment to the garden party in Jakob Gontard's Adlerlychtschem Hof in Frankfurt and much of its corrosive affect is due to its gentleness.

Hölderlin's grotesque position as a helplessly dependent tutor who is perplexed by the world of Gontard and his money-making friends on the one side and the excited birdlike flutterings of Susette-Diotima on the other is amusingly followed by a merry Rococo divertimento by a choir of jobbers celebrating a boom.

Günther Gnack

(Der Tagesspiegel, 21 September 1971)



EDUCATION

University planning demands considerable attention to detail and requirements

Hans Leussink, the Minister of Education and Science, is right when he says: "We have now experienced a short period of planning euphoria after years of hostility toward planning. We are now beginning to achieve that objectivity necessary for success."

This necessary objectivity also appears in the work on university planning edited by Professor Linde of the Central Archives for University Building in Stuttgart.

This four-volume work of which three volumes have now appeared is the first

Hochschulplanung (University Planning). Edited by Horst Linde. Published by Werner Verlag, Düsseldorf. Three volumes. Price per volume: 50 Marks.

attempt of building planners in this country to describe the whole difficult field of university planning and contribute towards the study of university administration.

The work is necessary as university building is still surrounded by mystery. Few universities investigate what demand for space there is within their walls. Few universities can say whether staff, space and equipment are being used to the best possible effect.

Analyses of the space situation have only just begun. Obviously, these will be closely linked to the question of demand.

How much space does a chemistry student need for example? not just in the

laboratory hut also in the other rooms of his department, in the administrative building, in libraries, lecture rooms and workshops?

The pioneer work in this field has been done by the Central Archives in Stuttgart. It is this body that is to be thanked for removing the veil of mystery from the socio-technical aspects of the university systems.

The first volume of the work is devoted mainly to the history of universities. The first section shows how the university developed from the high schools of medieval times through the Renaissance, the Reformation, Counter-Reformation and Enlightenment to the Berlin University based on the ideas of the Prussian Minister Wilhelm von Humboldt.

The second section deals with the structural picture of the university in the course of time, ranging from the Universitas magistrorum et scholarium, a corporation of teachers and pupils, to the academic factories of the twentieth century.

The third part deals with the position of universities abroad and international trends in university development and planning.

The final section of the first volume turns to the German university and the history of its reforms from Humboldt's momentous article *On the Internal and External Organisation of the Institutes of Higher Education in Berlin* to the university reform plans of the sixties.

Volume two focuses on issues of structural and building planning. It deals

with university administration, the regulation of teaching and research spheres with integrated systems of information and methods of planning according to requirements. One section is concerned with the planning of institutes for medical research and training.

Volume three discusses the structural aspects of micro-planning, describing the qualitative characteristics of rooms and areas according to purpose and mentioning the problems of standardisation.

Standardisation is on the one hand the harmonisation of requirements, building techniques and planning processes and on the other hand a setting of norms in university construction so as to allow assembly-line production of prefabricated buildings.

The aim of standardisation is a decrease in the costs involved in both construction and operation and a reduction of the time taken between the initial planning stage and the final handing-over ceremony.

The authors of the work manage to give a clear survey of this complicated subject. Praise must be given to the formal organisation of the volumes and the pictures and diagrams contained within them.

In view of the discussion about comprehensive universities, attention should be drawn to the section of volume one dealing with university planning in the United States.

Proposals to adopt a comprehensive university system in West Germany have been put forward ever since the mid-sixties. But the United States has long had

comprehensive universities like New York State University or the University of California.

A reader might have expected this book would have discussed the problems and results of the change-over to isolated universities of varying size to a comprehensive system in which plans to this effect in the Federal Republic.

But this unfortunately does not do. The whole section on comprehensive universities is rather scanty. One question must also be made. The statement that the Weizsäcker Plan abolishes the mas incorrect. The draft plan for a ring-block comprehensive university provides for academic certificates.

In view of the current arguments about how integrated future universities should be, it is useful to read Peter Jochims' article in volume two on the "Site-Integration".

This article will help to dispel a little of the euphoria surrounding the question

Süddeutsche Zeitung

integration. It would indeed be better put into practice the theory that integrated operations were more economical without examining it more closely.

Politicians and planners dealing with universities should also keep something else in mind: "Integration should not be aimed at merely to stimulate the interdisciplinary discussion between faculties. If academics have nothing to say to each other, this will not be changed by putting them in the same room. On the other hand if they are of such importance to each other they will certainly meet even if separated by a distance of thousands of miles."

Dieter Mohr

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 September 1971)

MEDICINE

Doctors and scientists discuss in Berlin television's harmful effects

Can watching television impair a person's health? Are there diseases that specifically attack TV viewers? Doctors and physicists at the International Radio and Television Exhibition in Berlin debated that they had the answers.

A group of doctors from Heidelberg pointed out the difference of coronary artery in patients with blood pressure before and after watching television.

Various live broadcasts, crime films and other exciting programmes caused the pulse-beat to rise considerably, leading to palpitations. The heart often beat as fast as 179 times a minute while even exertions of a half-mile walk only gave the heart to beat 140 times a minute.

Specialists therefore recommend patients suffering from high blood pressure to avoid watching television programmes that could cause them excitement.

Professor Ludwig Denlinger of Erlangen, a specialist in digestive and metabolic diseases, measured patients' stomach acid as they watched television.

The amount increases with the tension and stress caused by the programme. Increased acidity can lead to stomach or intestinal ulcers, Professor Denlinger stressed.

Orthopedist Hanns Schoberth of Frankfurt said that viewers should for health reasons move about more when

Frankfurter Rundschau

Increased acidity also causes hunger pangs leading the viewer to eat more than he needs. Beer and other alcoholic drinks increase the number of calories consumed. People who nibble at nuts while watching television also consume extra calories and put on extra weight.

Professor Demling warns people against eating too much and sitting too long in front of the screen. As well as stomach ulcers, heart complications and obesity, this can cause damage to the spinal cord, phlebotic complaints and headaches. The flickering of the television picture can also cause slight epileptic fits.

Professor Herbert Schober of Munich, a specialist in optics, states that the conjunctivitis caused by watching too much television is due to strain on the eyes. He recommends viewers to wear proper spectacles, if required, and to do exercises during programme intervals.

Orthopedist Hanns Schoberth of Frankfurt said that viewers should for health reasons move about more when

watching television. Pains in the shoulder and neck can be avoided by having a proper chair for watching television, one which has arm rests.

To prevent disturbing the circulation of the blood in the legs and the risk of phlebotic complaints, the chair must enable the viewer to keep his legs in a horizontal position. Professor Schoberth said that the main cause of television diseases was sitting wrongly.

But turning to the television set itself, where should it stand in a room and how should it be made? Professor Hüllemann and Dr Ruslow pointed out that the imperfections of the television picture were inherent in the system.

Screen distance

People should sit between six and eight feet from the screen, straight in front of it and not at an angle. This distance should be five to six times the height of the screen (usually about sixteen to twenty-one inches). The viewer's chair should be about eighteen inches from the ground. When the screen is smaller, the distances involved can be reduced.

Does a television set emit harmful radiation such as X-rays? Physicists Kessel and Nitschke were commissioned by the Ministry of Health to find out.

There are three possible sources of radiation in a television set - the rectifier with its high voltage, the ballast triode and the screen itself. It is possible for a set to emit harmful radiation.

But all new television sets are built according to the specifications of the ICAF. Protection against radiation in this country is guaranteed by the VDE specifications.

There are however no norms governing the repair of television sets and exports point out that it is here that sources of radiation could be opened up.

Otto Tappen

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 17 September 1971)

Marburg plans centre for spastic children

Marburg, the surrounding local district, the Health Bureau and the Society for the Care of Spastic and Physically Handicapped Children plan to build a spastic centre in the Ockershausen area of the city in the spring of 1972.

Dr Burghard Vilmar, the Society Chairman, announced in Marburg that the first stage of building programme would cost 200,000 Marks.

The centre will contain two rooms for looking after spastic children in a general way and two special departments for physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

An advisory centre for spastics has been set up by the city health authorities. Dr Kurt Roderich Nittner, the head of the health authorities there, stated that one of the most important functions of the advisory centre was to catch the disease in its early stages and provide a plan of cure.

All children thought to be in danger will be examined in the first few months after their birth even if they show no symptoms of spasticity. The advisory centre is headed by Dr Exner, a lady specialist.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 11 September 1971)

Behring produce serum to overcome rejection in transplant surgery

After years of research the Behring works, Marburg, have developed an anti-serum for lymphocytes, the first preparation of its type not to contain antibodies.

It will be available to transplant centres throughout the world and is to be called Anti-Human Lymphocyte Globulin, a spokesman stated.

It will lead to a considerable reduction in the dangers accompanying transplant operations, especially kidney transplants. The success of a transplant depends on whether doctors manage to suppress the body's immunological defence mechanisms against the foreign organ.

The lymphocytes that are part of this mechanism reject the transplanted organ if their activity cannot be controlled in time.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 17 September 1971)

Science Ministry tries to cut back the number of advisory councils

Critics of the West German social system have always looked upon the Ministry of Education and Science as a political-industrial complex.

The number of advisory committees, 38 in all, seemed to be proof of an increased spread of a State and economic bureaucracy that the public could not survey in entirety and that the Bundesrat could no longer control.

The problems of "adviseritis" were seen when Christian Democrat Gerhard Stoltenberg, the former Minister of Scientific Research, set up an *Advisory Committee for Research Policy* that shied away from public gaze, distinguished itself by a high degree of ineffectiveness but always roused suspicions that it was inadmissibly mixing public and economic interests.

After months of indecision Science Minister Hans Leussink has now replaced this "secret science cabinet", as Social Democrat member Wieselhuber called it, with a new body, the *Advisory Committee for Education and Science*.

Influential permanent committees like the *Atomic Commission* or the *Specialist Council for Data Processing* have been wound up and replaced by more lightly organised specialist committees.

Leussink hopes that these new committees will contain more young advisers who have not yet risen to the top positions in industry or education than has previously been the case. The Minister's views on this subject cannot be dismissed if there is to be an efficient advisory service.

Whether making the committees younger will also make them more independent is another question. Where powerful

interests are involved experience has shown that there is little difference whether interest groups exert their influence through professors of long standing or through young intellectuals who are rising to the top.

The only opportunity to control the process is via the public though even this is difficult to implement.

But things are to change here too. Contrary to previous practice, the composition and recommendations of the advisory committees will be published annually in future.

The Science Ministry is therefore the first government ministry to try and prune the number of advisory councils. These total 264 at present, some of them dating back to 1900.

Hans Leussink, as Minister responsible for technology, needs advice more than any other minister. Everything depends on his advisers' efficiency.

No answer has yet been given to the questions of the importance of research policy control apparatus for social services policy.

The various members of the advisory groups will be appointed *ad personam* but notice will be taken of their role in industry or education.

Whether or not they will rise above their particular interests will not be witnessed until the new committees first turn to the controversial questions of research and education policy.

Foreing them to consider the common good is "once" again the task of the Minister and a challenge to his skill.

Udo Bergdoll

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 September 1971)

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Hannoversche Presse

Since the beginning of July this year medical insurance schemes have been obliged to cover medical examinations for women above 30 and men over 45 as part of the cancer prevention programme.

An opinion poll conducted by the Infass Institute of Bad Godesberg reveals that the majority of the people in this country approve of the step.

The report now issued was based on the answers of more than a thousand adults living in the Federal Republic and West Berlin.

Ninety-two per cent of all those interviewed considered the free anti-cancer examinations to be an important innovation in the social security system.

Only four per cent described them as irrelevant. Four per cent refused to comment. Elderly people were more hesitant in their opinion than the younger people covered by the poll.

The importance of these preventive examinations are stressed on all sides.

Health Ministry examines smallpox question

The Ministry of Health is currently examining the question of whether the inoculation of babies against smallpox should remain compulsory.

A Health Ministry spokesman stated that the Federal Health Council has been asked to investigate the problem and submit a report.

The World Health Organisation in Geneva has stated that inoculation against smallpox could be suspended in developed countries without any danger to the rest of the population.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 21 September 1971)

Subterranean hospitals opened in civil defence programme

Lower Saxony's Ministry of Social Security plans a network of auxiliary hospitals, some of them underground, and well-stocked pharmaceutical depots to ensure that the public can be given medical care and attention in the event of a disaster.

Work has just begun in Walsrode on building the largest and most modern reserve hospital in the Federal Republic with six hundred beds and a staff of two hundred. Other Federal states are expected to follow Lower Saxony's lead.

The term "auxiliary hospital" is rather misleading as it suggests a barracks of converted school rooms. But the hospital buildings now planned for the area between the Harz mountains and the North Sea, most of them set deep in the ground under schools, are an unsurpassed contribution towards civil defence.

Plans now on view in the Ministry for a hospital of this type in Zeven are extremely impressive. The hospital will have operating theatres, X-ray departments, a large number of beds, rooms for the staff

and its own generator and ventilation system.

A few hours is all it takes for the hospital to be put into full operation and it is then independent of the outside world for at least three weeks.

This and special decontamination measures against atomic, biological and chemical weapons show that provision has been made for the worst possible disasters.

The Hanover Ministry stresses however that the main aim of the system is to provide medical care and attention in the event of an emergency. Lower Saxony can point to a painful experience in the recent past - the 1962 flood disaster.

Two of the emergency hospitals are already ready. The one in Syke can accommodate 500 patients and between 120 and 130 staff. Six hundred beds are available in the subterranean hospital in Bentheim and sixteen beds for post-surgery patients deeper underground.

The hospitals at Zeven and Oedeme near Lüneburg are currently being built. Work on the largest hospital so far, that at Walsrode, has just begun and further

projects are planned at Dissen near Osnabrück, at Oldenburg, Stada, Bederkesa, Hildesheim, Peine and Salzgitter.

The auxiliary hospitals planned for Wilhelmshaven and Sonderbusch will be built on the surface behind thick bunker walls because of the damp nature of the soil.

Hanover is a special case. The Ministry of Defence and Ministry of the Interior in Bonn have decided to use the barracks facilities around the city in the event of an emergency. The medical care of soldiers and civilians can then be combined, following the example of Denmark.

As well as the subterranean hospitals there will be a network of eight medical camps to the east and west of the River Weser. These depots will contain medical equipment and instruments ranging from pills to X-ray equipment that can be issued at any time without the help of experts.

These auxiliary hospitals will not be put into mothballs as soon as they are built, as various newspapers claim. They will be used to train the medical staff that may be needed to run them in future.

Bonn is financing the scheme. Five million Marks are being allocated to Lower Saxony every year to pay the costs of building and equipping the hospitals.

Wolfgang Scholber
(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 10 September 1971)

This country's exporters have now had to live for over five months with the upward floating of the Mark and have withstood the first thirty days of America's import tax, which runs contrary to the code of free world trade.

It is not correct to say that the dark clouds that gathered over West German exports when both measures were introduced have dispersed but the "weather" forecasts are not so unfavourable now.

The opportunities for this country's exporters on foreign markets are now being gauged more realistically than they were in the not-so-distant past.

Nevertheless despite the general feeling of relief it must not be forgotten that certain individual branches of the economy have been hit very hard by both the Mark upvaluation and America's protectionist moves.

Incoming contracts and orders from abroad in the months of May, June and July (exact figures for trading in more recent months are not yet available) did in fact drop by two per cent compared with the first months of this year.

But these figures were still six per cent up compared with the corresponding period of last year. Even so, when the level of price increases is taken into account the real growth over the year was no more than one and a half per cent.

Following the two previous revaluations of the Mark, in March 1961 and October 1969, orders from abroad also declined.

But one of the main reasons for this was that as soon as there was talk about the parity of the Mark and it seemed likely that a step had to be taken to readjust currency policies foreign purchasers of West German goods were quick to step in and make their orders before the Mark could be upvalued so as to take advantage of a favourable rate of exchange before it was too late.

As a result of this order naturally declined following the revaluation, but later they recovered. The increase in cost of West German products as a result of the upvaluing of the Mark cut back our exports for a year after revaluation in 1961, whereas in 1969 it was only over a short term that an effect was noticeable statistically.

The reason for this was that the rate of inflation in countries which are the Federal Republic's best customers were even more marked than here and the price-raising effect of the revaluation was quickly levelled out.

But the decline in the number of orders from abroad this summer is due not only to currency policy reasons. In addition to this there is the stagnation that has affected many of the countries that place large orders with the Federal Republic.

No future in Mark speculation, Karl Klasen warns

The Central Bank Committee of the Bundesbank at a recent meeting failed to reach any decisions on credit policies. Bank President Karl Klasen did, however, tell journalists that it would be possible for the Bank to make such decisions in the near future. But for the time being it was essential, in his opinion, to await the results of the International Monetary Fund AGM.

When considering whether there should be a drastic change of direction in cash and credit policies the Bundesbank would base its decisions first and foremost on domestic economic aims, Klasen stated. He added that this country has done its bit towards protecting international economic interests by floating the Mark and can now concentrate on attacking price rises on the home front.

As far as price stability is concerned, said Herr Klasen, we must bear in mind

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Exporters are unabashed at currency policy vagaries

However, some of our most important trading partners abroad have embarked on a policy of expansion in their economic policies.

This is a step that has been most marked in the United States. President Nixon is now flat out for success or bust, especially as the presidential elections are coming up again next year.

But the move towards expansion applies just as much to Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan. As soon as these countries have got their programme of reflation into swing the Federal Republic's exporters will be able to enjoy a part of the increased demand.

By means of measures taken in the Federal Republic alone our competitiveness could be increased. If the degree of wage and salary increases achieved by workers and their unions were to be lower than that of last year there would be less pressure on the cost side. This would improve the chances of West German products abroad.

The sales potential and the competitiveness of our exporters are in the near future not so bleak after all.

Nevertheless on the currency policy scene the sense of uncertainty continues

Those engaged in trade with other countries are more than a little unsure of themselves. Currency policies and trade policies can no longer be treated separately. But when currency experts play poker nobody is allowed to see anyone else.

Nobody wants escalation. But who knows what lies round the corner tomorrow? For exporters who are forced to plan over a long term uncertainty of this kind can be fatal. America could for instance start a policy of export boosting or give even more teeth to discrimination against imported capital-investment goods.

Economic nationalism is lurking round the corner. "Buy American" appeals are gaining ground and beginning to take effect. Protected industries are beginning to find the going much easier.

It is only a matter of time before economies of European countries demand to be given assistance. Canada has already

that the inflationary mentality which has been rife in the Federal Republic persists. This is particularly true of government spending. Inflationary tendencies should not be encouraged by lowering interest rates, the Bundesbank President stated.

Commenting on the intervention of the Bundesbank on the currency exchange market Herr Klasen said that there was no intention of sticking to a fixed dollar parity. But in the interests of industry for one thing the exchange rate should not be allowed to go on sinking ad infinitum. The Federal Republic did not want to take a lone stand in leaving the rate of the dollar to its own devices and the state of the market.

On the other hand the Bank wanted to make it quite clear that it was not basically out to hold itself aloof from the state of the market. The Bundesbank's intervention was aimed against unusual rumours and speculation that had nothing to do with floating.

He summed up: "If anyone still thinks he can make a quick Mark killing he has underestimated us."

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 September 1971)

unabated. Even after the meeting of the Group of Ten (the ten most important industrial nations in the free world) it was not possible to say how quickly this uncertainty would be swept aside.

But the governments involved have announced their intent to return to fixed parities as soon as this is feasible. This presumably means that there will be new parities which level out the differences in purchasing power of the different countries' currencies.

Washington must also be interested in the outcome of this. The Americans' new import tax surcharge may help to keep imports down, but it does nothing to boost exports.

A realignment of parities which would remove the overvaluation of the dollar would achieve both in one fell swoop.

The fixing of parities again would, if it avoided overvaluing or undervaluing any of the currencies, create greater security for the exporter. But if the process of calming down the international monetary situation is to be longer lasting than it has been in the past a more flexible solution must be found.

At any rate a realignment of parities means that much of the data used by the

International currency mess for exporters' spectacles

taken steps to protect its economy, helping those most directly hit with subsidies so that the unemployment quota does not rise any further.

The Americans have a decisive role to play in the matter of unravelling the complications of the present currency and economics mess. Just how tough are their demands in effect?

The more the solution to the currency problem approaches a multilateral massive revaluation of currencies the less will be Washington's attacks on European Economic Community trade policies.

The less substantial and ineffectual solutions to the currency problem are on the other side the more likely it will be that we will face new crises of a similar kind within a few years.

Europe may not make a decisive step forward for as long as the Americans are suffering from a serious imbalance of payments.

Economic as well as political considerations play a major role in the reserved attitude adopted by Professor Schiller when the Council of Ministers in Brussels was arriving at its decision. The Bonn government, it was stated at a Concerted Action meeting, can afford least of all countries a worldwide decline into controlled economies with its great involvement over a wide area in foreign trade.

According to the industrialists the first essential is to remove burdens from and give assistance to the United States, the Confederation of Federal Republic Industries warns.

Now, how can we encourage the Americans to remove their trade restrictions?

The joint action of the EEC countries, which was toned down at the last minute, could be considered the first step in this direction. The Community has certainly not said its last word, Professor Schiller stated in an attempt at appeasement. The EEC joint action amounts to a hand proffered to the Americans.

The Americans, viewing the actions taken by the Federal Republic objectively, should recognise that the re-

West German economy must be considered considerably. For we must assume that any realignment will involve an upvaluation of the Mark.

This puts the pressure on companies in this country since access to our market by foreign companies is made easier, while exporters in this country are faced with yet another hurdle to mount.

When the undervaluation of the Mark has been removed our involvement in the road will at any rate prove more lucrative. Companies will be more readily prepared to open up subsidiaries abroad to take on any advantages such as lower wages.

This is a tendency that should be highly favourable for West German exporters since the more highly developed country is, the greater is the degradation with it.

This is of course a consideration for the longer term, but there is another reason for having faith in the strength of the West German economy. Prices are naturally an important factor in the popularity of a country's exports, but the only factor.

Our industry has achieved in its reputation in the world through quality and technical sophistication of its products. In addition to this there is flexibility and adaptability of our men who work on the foreign markets.

Factors such as this are not affected by the vagaries of monetary policies. They are another reason why our exporters face the future with confidence.

Hans-Jürgen Mohrke
(Die Welt, 20 September 1971)

INDUSTRY

Düsseldorf show highlights utility of plastics

There are unlikely to be any major new additions of basically different kinds of plastics for widespread general use in the near future. But the various basic plastics already developed can be further "bred" to give materials with different qualities.

At present polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and other plastics yield over fifty different kinds of material which can be put to a multitude of uses. The basic types are modified as required for making such items as wheels for the workings of a watch, for which the material has to be as hard as steel, or foam fillings for cushions, where the plastic has to be soft and pliant.

Plastics in their hardest forms are now used as building materials for modern constructions. Yet they can be elastic and used for components of cars. They can be as clear as glass for making optical lenses or foil for packaging, or they can be coloured with all the hues that go to make up the trendy Pop world — ideal for children's toys or brightening up the kitchen utensils cupboard.

They can be reliably stable for use as tanks, to carry central heating oil for instance. As crash barriers on autobahns plastics can be tough, but with enough give to soak up the force of impact without hurling a car back on to the road.

A comprehensive look at the world of plastics was given by the exhibition "K 71 in Düsseldorf (K for Kunststoff — plastics). This exhibition which is held once every four years christened the new fairgrounds in Düsseldorf.

About one thousand exhibitors from 21 different countries put their goods on show in the twelve halls and gave the new fair a centre an impressive send-off. Some exhibits were also on show in the open on the fair-ground. The whole exhibition was an informative showcase of the manufacture, processing and usage of plastics.

There were some particularly interesting developments to be seen in the way of foam plastics and we can expect further advances in this direction, especially as virtually all known polymers can be made into foam by one process or another.

Soft foam plastics are being used to an ever greater extent in mattresses and upholstery and lately their application has been spread to fillings for car seats; and harder foams can be used as insulation material in refrigeration plant. Foam plastics between plastic covered steel make an ideal material for prefabricated building sections. And foam plastics are finding new applications in the manufacture of sporting equipment and many other similar spheres.

Semi-hard foam plastics which are covered with a massive outer skin as they are produced are today an indispensable part of automobile manufacturing.

While the world production of plastics has increased by one third in the past few years, that is to say since K '67 the rate of increase in the Federal Republic has been one and a half times.

In 1970 4,320,000 tons of plastics were produced, 1,750,000 tons were exported and 820,000 tons were imported. Plastics have now moved into the category of one of the essential elements of human life along with iron, soap or paper as calculated on a per capita usage basis.

Apparently the Federal Republic was ahead of even Japan and the United States from the point of view of consumption of plastics per capita. West Germans use 55 kilograms of plastics each



Miniature pumps in plastic balls with small windows so that the pumps can be seen were displayed by one exhibitor at the Düsseldorf plastics fair. (Photo: dpa)

while the Japanese use forty kilograms and the United States only 39 kilograms.

But these statistics are deceptive. The figures for domestic consumption include the amount of plastics and plastic goods manufactured for export, which is particularly high in the Federal Republic.

Plastics have now reached a high percentage of the production and output of our chemical industries. At Bayer dye works for instance the proportion of "chemical materials" (polyurethane, plastics and caoutchouc) has grown so far that it has now become one quarter of the turnover, amounting to 2,500 million Marks.

Bayer has come about one third of the world production of polyurethane raw materials — over one million tons in 1970 — and in the production of synthetic indol-rubber the Bayer group plans to increase its capacity to about 600,000 tons per annum by 1975.

BASF increased its turnover in plastics in 1970 by twelve per cent to 1,900 million Marks. This amounted to eighteen per cent of the total turnover of the Badische Anilin & Soda Fabrik group. In all 1,300,000 tons of synthetic materials were produced.

Between 1961 and 1970 BASF invested over two milliard Marks in plastics and at present 22 per cent of the allocation for research is devoted to development of plastics.

Twenty-two million households in the Federal Republic will in the course of the next few weeks be sent twenty million full-colour catalogues, each containing up to 40,000 articles for sale.

Senders of the heavyweight mass-produced catalogues will be the mail-order houses of West Germany which have flourished since the end of the War. The largest of these buy-through-the-post firms enjoy a turnover which stands comparison with that of the major department stores such as Karstadt, Hertie and Kaufhof.

West German large-scale mail-order firms, many of which are still run by their founders, for instance Gustav Schickedanz and Josef Neckermann, had a turnover of more than seven thousand million Marks with their catalogue trade last year. This figure was 4.3 per cent of the total turnover of West German trading concerns.

While conventional businesses, such as tobacconists, sausage sellers, stores, supermarkets and trading chains procure their goods from a wholesaler or an organisation dealing in the distribution of goods on a large scale, mail-order houses obtain their stock direct from the manufacturer, cutting out a middleman and enabling themselves to offer tempting prices.

Sales talk - free through the letter box

Big man of the mail-order business is Gustav Schickedanz who runs Quelle (the name means 'fountain' or 'source'). His turnover for this year will be about two thousand million Marks, scarcely less than the turnover expected by his two main rivals put together.

These two are Otto Versand with an expected turnover for 1971 of 1.2 milliard Marks and Neckermann (900 million Marks).

Schickedanz' group also runs the speciality mail-order house Schöpfung and puts on to the market exactly half of the catalogues of the roughly 2,000 small and large West German mail order concerns.

Quelle issues about 6,300,000 volumes costing seven Marks apiece to produce. 3,500,000 of these are special catalogues. Since catalogues are issued twice a year in the spring and autumn Herr Schickedanz has to allow 130 million Marks for the cost of the brightly coloured books alone.

such as metals and glass rose by seventy and 33 per cent respectively, leather became sixteen per cent more expensive and wood for woodworking increased by twelve per cent, plastics became on average 27 per cent cheaper up till 1970.

In the meantime the advantages gained from rationalisation have been exhausted. Some plant is being used to the full and there would be no benefit to be derived from increasing capacities any further in most cases.

At this latest stage price increases in raw materials (mainly oil), investment requirements and wage and salary bills must be passed on in the form of higher prices.

At the present moment, however, excesses are flooding on to the market. Sections of plant for mass-production of plastics are only running at 75 per cent of capacity.

Factors such as this make it difficult to implement price rises. Thus the chemicals industry will have to tighten its belt with regard to investment in several spheres of production until demand and production capacity have levelled out.

A new trend will be noticed in the investment plans in the future. Countries producing fuel oil want to have a hand in the processing. Plans regarding the integration of the production and processing of crude oil, the manufacture of chemical raw materials derived from petroleum and their further processing to plastics are reaching maturity.

At least a half of the fair in Düsseldorf was given over to the manufacturers of machines for processing plastics. There are about 180 firms in the Federal Republic working in this sphere, 28,000 people roughly are employed in this sector and the production volume last year was more than 1,600 million Marks.

Producers of plastics had prepared themselves well for the polemics that they expected to be directed against them at K '71, and quite rightly so, on the question of the environment. The great advantage of plastics is now recognised as being at one and the same time one of their major disadvantages, namely their resistance to deterioration and corrosion.

But life without plastics now is hard to imagine. The wheels of technology cannot be turned back. The industry recognises that the production, processing and use of plastics must be geared to the requirements of the environment. But at the same time those who work with plastics demand that discussions about plastics and the environment should be more matter-of-fact and less emotional.

Günther Schach
(Deutsche Zeitung, 24 September 1971)

His competition Neckermann sends out five million 600-page catalogues twice a year containing articles ranging in price from less than 25 Pfennigs (odds and ends for electrical equipment) to 100,000 Marks (houses!)

Hamburg's Otto Versand makes do with 1,600,000 catalogues with 900 pages costing 15 Marks to produce. Otto concentrates more on using a tightly-knit web of agents and therefore does not need as many catalogues as its rivals.

The major mail-order firms such as Quelle and Neckermann have not put all their eggs in one basket but also sell their goods through conventional shops. Including shop sales Quelle's trading turnover for 1971 should reach the four-billiard Mark.

Gustav Schickedanz is West Germany's largest producer of hygiene articles and has large interests in breweries. Josef Neckermann' concern now sells so much over the counter that the description of it as a mail-order firm hardly applies statistically.

Neckermann has lucrative sidelines in the NUR travel agency and Neckermann Eigenheim KG.

(Der Tagespiegel, 19 September 1971)

■ AUTOMOBILES

Mercedes millionth diesel-engined private car rolls off the production line

Daimler-Benz, the oldest motor manufacturer in the world, recently celebrated an uncommon jubilee. At Sindelfingen assembly plant, near Stuttgart, the firm's millionth diesel-engined private car, a Mercedes 200 D saloon, ran off the assembly lines.

The millionth diesel-powered Mercedes is an event worth noting not only in this country. It is a memorable occasion in the world history of an engine that is still a relative newcomer to private cars.

The invention and development of the diesel engine date back to a time when Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz were still designing, building, testing and propagating the first functioning automobiles independently of each other.

Both men developed the petrol engine as a fast propulsion unit for their vehicles. In 1894 the first stationary diesel engine powered by crude oil saw the light of day in Augsburg. Rudolf Diesel and his associates went on to spend years experimenting with the new engine but to begin with, try as they might, it did not come up to scratch as a propulsion unit for motor vehicles.

In 1907 Rudolf Diesel's original patent rights expired. Not only the original development team at MAN in Augsburg but also teams of creative and imaginative engineers at Daimler's in Marienfeld, Berlin, and Benz's in Mannheim and Gengenau intensified their efforts to iron out the snags that prevented the classic diesel engine from filling the bill.

Thirty years were to pass before the first large-size diesel engine emerged as a suitable propulsion unit for motor vehicles, though.

The first trials of a marketable four-cylinder Benz diesel engine took place on 10 September 1923 in the hills around Gengenau. The test vehicle was a five-ton lorry.

On 8 February 1924 the first diesel-engined commercial vehicle in the world, a five-ton Benz lorry with a Cardan rear axle, was premiered at the Amsterdam motor show.

Deutsche Shell forecasts car increase will decline by 1975

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The traffic chaos so often dramatically forecast for the late seventies is a figment of the forecasters' imaginations. From 1975 on the increase in the number of vehicles on the roads of this country will decline perceptibly, according to the results of a survey commissioned by Deutsche Shell.

The increase in the number of motor vehicles, the report concludes, is nearing saturation point faster than is generally supposed.

Between 1970 and 1975 the number of motor vehicles will increase by an estimated 24.7 per cent. Between 1975 and 1980 the increase is expected to be a mere 9.8 per cent and between 1980 and 1985 as little as 4.2 per cent.

In view of the increase in the number of second cars the amount of traffic in terms of mileage per vehicle will increase even more slowly, by 20.5, 6.2 and 0.6 per cent respectively over the same five-year periods.

*PUBLIK

This vehicle, the sire of all subsequent diesel-engined automobiles, was hailed by the Press as the most technically significant vehicle of the saloon. This first series diesel engine for motor vehicles created a sensation.

A few months later all three manufacturers, Daimler, Benz and MAN, unveiled their diesel prototypes at the December 1924 Berlin motor show. The furthest developed of the three was the model exhibited by Benz of Gengenau.

Daimler Motoren Gesellschaft and Karl Benz & Cie, Mannheim, joined forces in 1924 and the two firms were finally merged in 1926.

The first major merger in the German and international motor industry 45 years ago laid the groundwork for the swift progress that then ensued. Now that the diesel engine was feasible proposition the new firm set about developing it with a will.

The Daimler-Benz diesel embarked on its triumphant progress. Now that the competition had been brought to an end by the merger the Benz principle was firmly adopted, having proved its superiority by virtue of design simplicity and the straightforward process of combustion.

The Daimler-Benz diesel proved such a success that diesel-powered commercial vehicles went from strength to strength. In the commercial vehicle sector the diesel engine had, as it were, taken over from the conventional combustion engine.

The diesel engine was still a long way off proving satisfactory for private cars, though. It was another twelve years before the first diesel-engined private car saw the light of day.

A 2.6-litre Daimler-Benz, it was pre-

miered at the Berlin motor show in spring 1936 and caused an immediate sensation. The first long run of diesel-engined private cars began to roll off the assembly lines in 1937.

In 1948 a smaller model was unveiled. It was powered by a robust four-cylinder diesel engine and relatively inexpensive both to buy and to run.

The success story of this first post-war diesel, the Mercedes-Benz 170 D and its two successors, was outdone by the 180 D introduced in 1954.

The 180 D was not discontinued until autumn 1962, by which time 153,000 units had been manufactured. It was soon joined by a 190 D, a more powerful and faster model that, driven by Karl Kling, won the Algiers to Capetown rally in 1959, averaging 80.6 km/h (fifty miles an hour) over a distance of 14,045 kilometres (8,800 miles).

On 8 April 1965 an improved version of the 190 D was the half millionth diesel to run off the Daimler-Benz assembly lines, the firm now being the world's largest manufacturer of diesel-powered vehicles.

The 750,000-mark was passed in

The caravanning craze continues to grow and grow

For some years people have been used to the idea of the number of caravans increasing. The indications are that numbers will continue to increase.

It is, when all is said and done, common knowledge that a caravan is the key to an annual holiday unhindered by poor weather, firm bookings and set dates.

What is more, shorter holidays and long weekends can be spent on nearby camping sites as though campers owned de luxe holiday homes of their own.

The 1972 caravans on show at the tenth international caravan salon in Essen from 9 to 16 October bear eloquent witness to the trend.

Regular campers, families who use their caravans whenever the opportunity arises most if not all of the year round, set great store by as much covered accommodation as possible.

The weather being what it is in this part of the world holidaymakers are bound to spend much of their time indoors and the more room there is in the caravan the better.

In view of the trend major domestic and foreign manufacturers are specialising in larger models that can be towed to the site by private car but when fully assembled are from twenty to 24 feet long.

The superstructure is fully insulated and affords complete protection from the vagaries of the weather, so much as that the new season's caravans could well pass muster as mobile Alpine huts.

They have complete kitchens and washing facilities, plenty of storage space, and unfurnished living section and neatly arranged bunk beds for parents and children.

Ten to twelve thousand Marks for a home on wheels seems a reasonable price to pay.

Yard for yard furnished mobile homes in the 20 to 25 square metre (27 to 33 square yard) category are even better at 8,000 Marks and upwards. These, however, are no longer caravans in that they have to be transported by articulated or low-loader lorry.

November 1968, that January having seen the birth of a new generation of Mercedes diesels, the 200 and 230 D, 105,500 and 210,865 of which respectively have been manufactured.

It has only taken another three years to reach the million-mark and the 190 D vehicle, a Mercedes 200 D, has been donated to the TV lottery for charitable purposes.

To this day Daimler-Benz have engaged in intensive research and development in order to ensure that diesel engines will be up to date.

The diesel engine has carved a niche for itself not only in commercial vehicles but also among private cars. Further development, more, especially, of the conventional combustion engine, is being pursued.

Already diesel-engined cars are the environment's best friend among motor vehicles, a fact that is appreciated only by legislators but also by increasing numbers of customers.

The carbon monoxide content of the exhaust fumes is only a tenth and the nitrous oxide content only half of that of comparable figures for conventional powered cars.

Virtually indestructible, the diesel engine is thus sitting pretty. It is unaffected by clean exhaust regulations as put by the environmental protection drive. Further alterations to the design of the diesel engine will not be needed for many years to come in this respect.

(Publik, 17 September 1971)

RAILWAYS

Bundesbahn introduces inter-city expresses linking 33 cities in this country

As the winter timetables come into force Deutsche Bundesbahn, the German Federal Railways, feel better equipped to meet the challenge of fiercer competition for long-distance passenger traffic between air, road and rail transport.

On 26 September the inter-city express network got off to a flying start. First-class services now link 33 cities in major industrial areas all over the country up to eight times a day.

Rolf Rückel, director of services at Bundesbahn headquarters, reckons the inter-city network is a superb system covering 2,400 miles of permanent way.

At a mobile press conference held on 15 September Herr Rückel noted that this was the first attempt in the world to run regular rail services over long distances at two-hourly intervals.

Even in the more distant future, he felt, transport would not be able to match the network or the coverage. He described the new, comfortable express carriages as the cat's whiskers.

In order to ensure regular two-hourly services between seven in the morning and eleven at night the inter-city network will use not only the existing sixty Trans-Europe and long-distance expresses but also a further forty first-class trains.

A hundred and thirty new carriages have been bought at half a million Marks each, not to mention sixty 103 class locomotives costing nearly three million Marks each. Starting next spring inter-city

trains will be a distinctive, uniform cream-red.

On four main routes the services cover to all intents and purposes the existing long-distance sections between Hamburg and Bremen on the one hand and Munich and Basel on the other.

The timetables, however, have been so arranged that where the four lines meet, at Cologne, Dortmund, Hanover and Mannheim, connections are available, and additional connections (to and from Nuremberg, say) at Augsburg.

As a rule passengers need only to cross the platform to change trains. Seat bookings can be transferred from one train to another, carriages being provided for this express purpose.

Inter-city trains cost eight Marks over and above the normal first-class fare. A return ticket from Hamburg to Munich costs 211 Marks. The present air fare is 340 Marks.

The Bundesbahn makes no bones about the fact that their new network, which incidentally involves only half a per cent of the 19,000-odd daily services, is particularly aimed at businessmen, who in the past have preferred to travel by car because of the long waiting-periods that slow down rail travel.

It is especially hoped that rail travel will now prove a more attractive proposition over distances of more than 300 miles, which at present, Rückel admits, "air transport has pretty well topped."

Bundesbahn planners hope that regular two-hourly services will boost overall

takings, particularly as first-class travel is on the increase (sales of first-class tickets increased by fourteen per cent last year).

Comfort and conveniences are to be improved accordingly. Inter-city trains have roomier, air-conditioned compartments, telephones and secretarial facilities.

"A special public," Rolf Rückel says, "requires special facilities. We are no snobs but we do realise that improved comfort only really appeals to a certain section of the travelling public starting at, say, the middle class."

Lufthansa reduces trans-Atlantic fares

For years the North Atlantic run has been the airlines' No. 1 money-spinner. Fare agreements have gone by the board now that charter travel has knocked the bottom out of the market, however.

At present there are no fewer than 52 different fares for tourist travel between the Old World and the New.

Improbable thought it may sound this collapse of the international air fares system is partly due to the changes in US policy on Vietnam.

The enormous air fleets that used to shuttle troops to and fro between America and South-East Asia are now at a loose end and out to corner a share of the tourist market.

This is why there is no intention of providing inter-city trains with second-class compartments. The reason officially given is that the trains would then be too heavy and too slow.

For the time being, though, inter-city trains do not cut travelling time. There are no immediate plans to travel at a maximum speed of more than 100 miles an hour, a speed reached by the Reichsbahn's Flying Hamburger in 1933, incidentally.

Safety first, railway officials say, and aim to keep inter-city trains on the move at speeds of between sixty and 75 miles an hour.

In the course of 1972 the sections of permanent way between Mannheim, Munich, and Donaueschingen and Langenhagen, Hanover and Uelzen are to be improved to cater for speeds of up to 125 miles an hour and travelling time will be shortened from 1973 on.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 September 1971)

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Ten millionth Opel rolls off the assembly lines

On 6 September the ten millionth Opel rolled off the assembly lines at the Rüsselsheim works, Frankfurt. Seventy-two years separate the first and the ten millionth Opel.

The first million was clocked up in 1940 and had thus taken 42 years to manufacture. The tenth million took less than a year and a half to produce.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 7 September 1971)

DIE WELT is ideal reading matter for people who want to be informed about West Germany and the West German view on world affairs. For people who wish to make contact with Federal Republic business and industry DIE WELT is the best advertising medium.

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Hamburg · Berlin · Essen · Frankfurt/M.
D 2000 Hamburg 36
Kaiser-Wilhelm-Straße 1
Tel.: (0411) 35 11 31
Telex: 02-11 149, 02-14 272

DIE WELT is published daily in Berlin, Hamburg and (for the Rhine-Ruhr industrial area) in Essen. From Monday to Friday the circulation is 280,000 rising to 315,000 on Saturdays. Regular subscriptions account for 78% of net sales; the remainder are sold through normal trade channels. DIE WELT is available in over 8,000 districts of West Germany, including West Berlin. Overseas sales in 120 countries account for five per cent of total circulation.

DIE WELT'S editorial content has won for it acclaim all over the world as an authoritative voice of West Germany. Its circulation and readership indicate the paper's influence. The only West German newspaper mentioned in a recent series of articles on sixteen leading world newspapers in The Times, London, was DIE WELT. In 1967 DIE WELT was awarded a medal of honour for outstanding journalistic achievement by the Faculty of Journalism at the University of Columbia (Mo.).

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